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RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1666  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 4536  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 3750  
RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 0441  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2065  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5946  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 2508  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AFGHANISTAN-  
PAKISTAN/TERRORISM/HOLBROOKE VISIT; NEW DELHI-APRIL 10-  
13, 2009.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media  
reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press.  
The Mission reports on English-language media via email  
through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

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AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN/TERRORISM/HOLBROOKE VISIT  
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11. "SHORTCOMINGS OF HOLBROOKE MISSION," op-ed article in  
April 12 DAINIK JAGRAN Hindi daily by strategic affairs  
specialist K. Subrahmanyam: "An Asia Society report on  
the Pakistan-Afghanistan region and U.S. Envoy Richard  
Holbrooke's mission is causing concern in India. There is  
fear that Holbrooke may pressure India to resume the  
unconditional peace process with Pakistan... Holbrooke  
should be asked why he is so sure that a resumption of  
the peace process will make the Pakistani army act  
against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda? The truth is that even  
if the talks resume, that is no guarantee that Pakistan  
will act against the Al Qaeda and Taliban. India should  
clearly refuse to accept any U.S. demand regarding  
Pakistan's security concerns. President Obama's recent  
statements clearly reflect U.S. concerns about Pakistan's  
ability to fight terror. If Pakistan is misusing aid, as  
some U.S. policymakers believe, then why give more  
money?"

12. "PILE OF EXPLOSIVES" editorial in April 11 DAINIK  
HINDUSTAN Hindi daily: "Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud is

giving Islamabad sleepless nights. In Swat, the Taliban has threatened to break the ceasefire if Zardari did not implement Islamic laws. Pakistan's insular, anti-west attitude is an impediment to modernization and development. The entire world, including the U.S., is telling Pakistan that its educated population and the radicals cannot co-exist, but it refuses to recognize the problem. During his recent visit, U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke failed to convince Islamabad that the ISI should break its relations with the Taliban and Al-Qaida."

¶3. "PAKISTAN AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE," editorial in April 11 AMAR UJALA Hindi daily: "Pakistani authorities start trembling, and the U.S., the UN and the diplomatic missions suspend their operations when Taliban's fiery Baitullah Mehsud issues his threats. It is a shame for Pakistan, as well as the U.S., that they have failed to catch Baitullah. He is a purely Pakistani product. The same terrorists who were created by Pakistan and the U.S. now pose a threat to them. At present, their topmost enemy is the U.S. and its allies. Being a US ally, Pakistan is also on their hit list.... Pakistan should either destroy these monsters, or let the international community do it."

¶4. "AMERICA'S LOVE FOR PAKISTAN," editorial in April 10 AMAR UJALA Hindi daily: "There were expectations of a positive change in the U.S. South Asia policy after Barack Obama became President. But now it is unclear what

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the U.S. wants. U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke's statements suggest he is genuinely interested in flushing out terrorism from the Pakistan-Afghanistan soil, but the very next moment an increased U.S. aid to Pakistan is announced. This is bizarre! America's courting Pakistan is truly unexplainable, given the Pakistani army and the ISI's known links with the Taliban. Even after FBI's confirmation of a Pakistani Army link in the Mumbai attacks, Pakistan has not destroyed anti-India terrorist camps on its soil. And now the U.S. asks India to resume peace talks with Pakistan! If the U.S. really wants to uproot terrorism from the Pakistan-Afghanistan area, it has to stop pampering Islamabad."

¶5. "PAKISTAN IN THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS" editorial in the April 13, 2009, Mumbai edition of centrist Marathi daily NAVSHAKTI. "Pakistan has never been as politically troubled as it is today. The Taliban has taken over part of Pakistan and other extremists are equally active in the rest of the country. The Pakistan leadership is evidently incapable of handling these multiple crises. Amidst the ongoing confusion, President Asif Zardari has dared to support the extremist elements in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. This move will not just destabilize India, but it will be counterproductive for Pakistan as well. Zardari is suicidal and vicious at the same time ..."

¶6. "MISSION ISLAMABAD" editorial in the April 11, 2009 multi-edition right-of-center Gujarati daily GUJARAT SAMACHAR. "Pakistan is gradually slipping into the hands of the Taliban. After terrorizing Lahore, the Taliban are now focused on taking over Islamabad. Islamabad is trembling out of fear of these dreaded terrorists spreading mayhem. Schools and colleges and even the U.S. embassy remain closed in Islamabad. Taking over Islamabad would be just like taking over control of Pakistan... What is surprising though is the fact that the ongoing scenario is being witnessed the world over by powerful political leaders but no one seems to be taking it seriously enough. It will be a black day in Pakistan's history if the Taliban manage to take over Islamabad, as well as an embarrassment for the global community in the fight against terrorism."  
(A similar editorial appeared in the April 11, 2009

multi-edition centrist Gujarati daily DIVYA BHASKAR).

17. "SPREAD OF TALIBAN AGGRESSION IN PAK A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR INDIA," editorial in April 13 left-of-center Assamese daily AJIR ASOM. "The Taliban are unstoppable in Pakistan...and the deteriorating security situation has forced countries such as the U.S. to close down its Embassy... There is skepticism about the success of President Obama's initiative to fight terrorism by aiding Pakistan... India too is concerned about the rapid spread of Taliban aggression on its neighbor's soil... India should, therefore, adopt a well-planned strategy to ensure that another Mumbai-type incident does not occur."  
BURLEIGH